Authentic assessment

What is authentic assessment?

A form of assessment in which students are asked to perform real-world tasks that demonstrate meaningful application of essential knowledge and skills
Jon Mueller, 2014, http://jfmueller.faculty.noctrl.edu/toolbox/whatisit.htm

Purposeful and engaging
Students, teachers and the community should see some real value in working on the task – that is, they want to solve it and see that it is worth the time spent on it.

Models how people solve real problems
The task should involve meetings or other activities that involve negotiation, planning, action, reporting, evaluating and exploring of alternatives.

Puts knowledge to work
The task should draw on a range of knowledge, skills and strategies from different areas of the school curriculum, as well as what is known about the local environment.

Demonstrates what students know and can do
All learners should be enabled to make a start or contribute in some way. However the task should also challenge most learners at some level.

Supports multiple representations and solution strategies
For example, diagrams, stories, graphs, tables, symbolic expressions, written arguments, explanations and/or justifications can demonstrate multiple options.

Offers opportunities for meaningful learning and higher order cognitive thinking
For example, the task should allow for:
- the development of an extended range of problem solving strategies and/or skills
- the construction and evaluation of conjectures, rules and/or generalisations.

Results in some product, presentation or outcome
Ultimately, there should be something tangible that can be 'pointed to' as a result of the deliberations of the group and/or individual.

Taken from the Victorian Department of Education and Training
http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/assessment/Pages/authtasks.aspx

Features of authentic assessment

- Teachers and students focus on communication, not on right and wrong answers
- It involves multi-stage tasks and real problems that require creative use of language rather than simple repetition
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